other countries including India because the decision to do so is normally based on risk assessment process which is influenced by a number of factors such as the disease pattern in a country, the varying reactions of certain ethnic groups in a given populations to the drug and the availability of safer substitutes as well the cause factor involve in the treatment of a particular disease.

The drug or formulations discontinued in the developed countries are assessed in consultation with leading experts in the given specializations. Based on their advice, the matter is placed before the Drug Technical Advisory Board (DTAB), a statutory body which comprises of representatives from the medical profession, the State drug enforcement authorities, experts institutions and agencies that advise Government on technical issues related to the implementation of the Drugs and cosmetics Act, 1940, whether or not to ban/phase out an existing drug. Till date 74 categories of drugs and formulations have been banned/phased out in the country.

Review of PFA Act

1830. DR. ABRAR AHMED : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted any group to review the various provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA) for considering the representations and suggestions received from various organizations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare constituted a group of officers, consisting of members from concerned Central Government Departments and some State Governments to review the various provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, and consider the representations and suggestions received from various Committees and Organisations. The amendments proposed have been circulated to the concerned Central Government Departments, all State Governments and various Trade and Consumer Organisations who are members of the Central Committee for Food Standards. The process of consultation is ongoing.